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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/075,361	02/14/2002	Hirokazu Sato	KON-1715	8868

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EXAMINER

LAM, ANDREW H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/075,361

Applicant(s)

SATO, HIROKAZU

Examiner

Andrew H. Lam

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
*Tran*

### DETAILED ACTION

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art (admission) in view of Rand et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,960,414) hereinafter Rand.

Regarding claim 1, admission discloses customer 100, can sent a request for printing to a specified server 104 or the like via the communication network for managing printing submitted to the photofinishing lab 105. Also, a photosensitive material manufacturer 106 and a physical distribution/sales company 107 supply the

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photofinishing lab 105 with the required photosensitive material (see. fig. 11 and pages 1-3 of application).

Admission does not expressly disclose a management server to conduct a light sensitive material production to manage the inventory of light sensitive material production so that photofinishing lab 105 does not have to keep an over supply of light sensitive material in stock at the photofinishing lab 105.

Rand discloses an excess inventory system that monitors excess material. The monitoring of the inventory system is based on a dependent and an independent requirement. The dependent requirement is a customer order for a product. The independent requirement is a forecasted customer order (col. 4, lines 43-45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify admission as per teaching of Rand because of the following reason: by having an inventory system that monitors excess material by monitoring dependent requirement such as customer order for product therefore the manufacture will not have to over produce a product. Also, it gives manufacturing organization the opportunity to cancel, push out or reschedule orders to avoid procuring material not required (col. 7, lines 56-59).

Regarding claim 2, the combination discloses the print management server of claim 1, further comprising: a printing management information preparing device to prepare printing management information to administrate a schedule of printing based on the order data received by the receiving device (admission, teaches server 104 can transmit printing data to photofinishing lab 105, it would have be obvious to incorporate

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the server of the admission which take order from the customer and the teaching of Rand which monitor production of product into one server and call it a management server thereby having the function of ordering and monitoring of what to produce); and a printing management information transmitting device to transmit the printing management information prepared by the printing management information preparing device to the printing section terminal.

Regarding claim 3, the combination discloses the print management server of claim 1, wherein the production management information preparing device prepares production management information to adjust a production amount and a production time (Rand, col. 7, lines 9-12, the strip program 22 and load program 24 identify excess materials monthly, weekly, daily, and even hourly based on how often a material requirements plan is generated) for the light sensitive material so as to make a stock amount of the light sensitive material to be a proper stock amount).

Regarding claim 4, the combination discloses the print management server of claim 3, further comprising: a proper stock amount setting device to set the proper stock amount of the light sensitive material based on the order data so as to consume the light sensitive material within a predetermined usable time limit of the light sensitive material (Rand, col. 4, lines 53-54, the system estimates the total 6 month material requirements).

Regarding claim 5, the combination discloses the print management server of claim 4, wherein a usable time limit setting device sets the usable time limit of the light sensitive material based on an inputted temperature in a warehouse preserving the light

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sensitive material (Rand, col. 8, lines 38-40, the strip program 22 selects materials that had stock issued out of the warehouse into a scrap account. This includes materials identified as having excess stock as well as non-excess materials. It would have been just as obvious to identify a product that have a product life shelf based on the environment which is the temperature of the warehouse or the days it sat in the warehouse).

Regarding claim 6, admission discloses customer 100, can sent a request for printing to a specified server 104 or the like via the communication network for managing printing submitted to the photofinishing lab 105. Also, a photosensitive material manufacturer 106 and a physical distribution/sales company 107 supply the photofinishing lab 105 with the required photosensitive material (see. fig. 11).

Admission does not expressly disclose a management server to conduct a light sensitive material production to manage the inventory of light sensitive material production so that photofinishing lab 105 does not have to keep an over supply of light sensitive material in stock at the photofinishing lab 105.

Rand discloses an excess inventory system that monitors excess material. The monitoring of the inventory system is based on a dependent and an independent requirement. The dependent requirement is a customer order for a product. The independent requirement is a forecasted customer order (col. 4, lines 43-45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify admission as per teaching of Rand because of the following reason: by having an inventory system that monitors excess material by

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monitoring dependent requirement such as customer order for product therefore the manufacture will not have to over produce a product. Also, it gives manufacturing organization the opportunity to cancel, push out or reschedule orders to avoid procuring material not required (col. 7, lines 56-59).

Regarding claim 7, the combination discloses the print management system of claim 6, wherein the print management server has a printing management information preparing device to prepare printing management information to administrate a schedule of printing based on the order data; and a printing management information transmitting device to transmit the printing management information prepared by the printing management information preparing device to the printing section terminal; and the printing section terminal has a printing management information receiving device to receive the printing management information transmitted from the printing management information transmitting device (admission, has a server for receiving print image via a network that can transmit information regarding print specific to a photofinishing lab such as the one shown in fig. 11, it would have be obvious to integrate the excess system of Rand in place of the server to monitor the order of prints based on the image request from the user and transmit the data to printing section terminal).

Regarding claim 8, the combination discloses a printing method by using the print management system of claim 7, comprising: setting a proper stock amount of the light sensitive material by the print management server based on the order data so as to consume the light sensitive material within a predetermined usable time limit of the light sensitive material (Rand, col. 8, lines 38-40, the strip program 22 selects materials that

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had stock issued out of the warehouse into a scrap account. This includes materials identified as having excess stock as well as non-excess materials. It would have been just as obvious to identify a product that have a product life shelf based on the environment which is the temperature of the warehouse or the days it sat in the warehouse); preparing production management information to adjust the production amount and the production time for the light sensitive material so as to make a stock amount of the light sensitive material stored in a memory to be a proper stock amount; producing the light sensitive material by the manufacturing section based on the production management information received by the production management information receiving device (Rand, col. 7, lines 9-12, the strip program 22 and load program 24 identify excess materials monthly, weekly, daily, and even hourly based on how often a material requirements plan is generated) for the light sensitive material so as to make a stock amount of the light sensitive material to be a proper stock amount); and conducting printing by the printing section based on the order data transmitted by the order data receiving device (admission, teaches server 104 can transmit printing data to photofinishing lab 105, it would have be obvious to incorporate the server of the admission which take order from the customer and the teaching of Rand which monitor production of product into one server and call it a management server thereby having the function of ordering and monitoring of what to produce) .

Regarding claim 9, the combination discloses the printing method of claim 8, wherein the step of printing is conducted based on the printing management information transmitted from the printing management information transmitting device (admission,

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teaches server 104 can transmit printing data to photofinishing lab 105, it would have be obvious to incorporate the server of the admission which take order from the customer and the teaching of Rand which monitor production of product into one server and call it a management server thereby having the function of ordering and monitoring of what to produce).

***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew H. Lam whose telephone number is (571) 272-8569. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**DOUGLAS Q. TRAN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

*Tranlong*  
8/22/05